

Travels in Virginia in Revolutionary Times

By A. J. MORRISON.
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This is the first of a series of articles which will give some account of travels in Virginia from 1776 to 1800.

J. F. D. Smyth's Narrative.

Nothing seems to be known of Smyth except what he himself relates incidentally in his two very interesting volumes of travels in this country. He came to America several years before the outbreak of the "Rebellion," as he calls our Revolutionary War. Although he was in most of the English colonies, and saw the greater part of the Spanish possessions in Louisiana and Florida, Captain Smyth preferred the Potomac region, and lived there, both peacefully and adventurously, until finally disturbed by the war. He was not a Tory, because he was not strictly an American. In 1773, his correspondence proves, he was a captain in the Queen's Rifle. Two years before he had been engaged in farming some six hundred acres of good land on the Maryland side of the Potomac. Captain John Ferdinand Daniel Smyth, explorer, planter, fighter and author, was not unlike the famous Smith, who, if he had chosen, could have spelled the name with a y as well.

John F. D. Smyth came in sight of land on the 14th day of August (the day of the year), in the forenoon, in a fine day, with a clear, serene sky. He soon sailed within the capes of Virginia, Cape Henry and Cape Charles, which last is an island named Smith's. We past Lynnhaven Bay on our left, and the opening of the Chesapeake on the right, and in the evening anchored in Hampton Road, which appears to be very safe. The night being calm, we were assailed by great numbers of musketoos, a very noxious fly. After a day the ship proceeded to Jamestown, "passing a great number of most charming situations on each side of this beautiful river." Jamestown still seems a member to the House of Burgesses, but there was only one voter, who was the proprietor of the borough and also the Burgess, Champion Travers, Esq. Making an excursion with a companion to Williamsburg, with which town Captain Smyth was well pleased. They dined very agreeably at the Raleigh Tavern, where we had exceeding good Madeira. What with pocket boroughs and good Madeira, the traveler must have felt as if he had scarcely left home.

The author describes Williamsburg, that capital city, but being fond of sports, he gives most space to the races. "Very capital horses were started here, such as would make no despicable figure at Newmarket; nor is their speed, bottom or blood inferior to their appearance. Their stock is from old Cade, old Crab, old Partner, Regulus, Babraham, Bosphorus, Devonshire Children, the Cullen Arabian, the Cumberland Arabian, &c., in England; and a horse from Arabia named the Bellise, which was imported into America and is now in existence. The quarter-racing of Southern Virginia and North Carolina struck Smyth as being a strange institution. Many early travelers devote a page or two to the quarter-race, a match between two horses to run one-quarter of a mile straight out. Smyth observes: "They have a breed in Virginia that performs it with astonishing velocity, beating every other for that distance with great ease; but they have no bottom. However, I am confident that there is not a horse in England, nor perhaps the whole world, that can excel them in rapid speed; these, like the others, make excellent saddle horses, or for road. The Virginians, of all ranks and denominations, are excessively fond of horses, and especially those of the race breed. Nobody walks on foot the smallest distance, except when hunting; indeed, a man will frequently go five miles to catch a horse, to ride only one mile afterwards."

Returning from Williamsburg to Jamestown, Smyth joined the ship again, which, on the 31st of August, got "under weigh" for City Point. They passed many delightful situations and charming seats, the names of

which are still well known either actually or historically. At City Point the author hired a boat and four negroes for a dollar and a half per day to continue up the river to Richmond. "I slept on board the boat, and on the 11th, in the forenoon, landed at the town of Shobokee, at the falls of James River. There are three towns at this place, Richmond, the largest, is below the falls, and is separated only by a creek, named Shobokee, from the town of Shobokee. On the south side of the river stands the town of Chesterfield, best known by the name of Rocky Ridge." In those days the river was the road to town. Tobacco was hoisted down Westham, seven miles above the falls, and thence brought by land carriage to Shobokee, or Richmond. Smyth speaks of a man who, bringing a double load down to Westham, was accidentally kept on, passed all the falls, and arrived not quite sobered at Shobokee. "This is one of the most extraordinary accidents that has occurred, or perhaps was ever heard of."

The great rivers of America, the great forests, the fierce electrical storms, the strange methods of agriculture, the lightning bugs, the mosquitoes and the bullfrogs astonished him. "Their note is harsh, sonorous and abrupt, frequently appearing to pronounce articulate sounds, in striking resemblance to the following words: Hogahet, tobacco, knee deep, ankle deep, deeper and deeper, Puck, kank, and many others, but all equally grating and dissonant. They surprise a man exceedingly, as he will hear their hoarse, loud, bellowing clamor just by him, and sometimes all around him, yet he cannot discover from whence it proceeds. They are of the size of a man's foot. Bullfrogs by day and the falls by night. "When a person arrives at Richmond his ears are continually assailed with the prodigious noise and roaring of the falls, which almost stuns him, and prevents him from sleeping for several nights."

Richmond was close to nature in those days. Captain Smyth used to take walks among the rocks and solitary, romantic situations around the falls. His custom was to carry a book in his pocket, and read in the shade until he "insensibly dropt asleep." This was his daily recreation, which I never neglected. But I was once extremely surprised at beholding, as soon as I opened my eyes, a prodigious large snake, with a few feet of its body, lying on the ground. He was let black, with a copper-colored belly, very fine, sparkling eyes, and at least seven feet long.

August 23, Smyth set out for the South. Crossing the James in a ferry-boat early in the morning, he rode through the towns of Rocky Ridge and Warwick (about five miles beyond), stopped at Osborne's, eight miles from Warwick, and reached Blandford in the afternoon, having crossed the Appomattox by a lofty wooden bridge at the town of Pocahontas, one of the three towns at the falls of the Appomattox—Petersburg, Blandford, Pocahontas. "In Blandford, the charming, pretty town of Blandford, in a beautiful plain on the river brink, on a very pleasant and delightful spot, I found an excellent inn, the residence of a boy."

Smyth purchased two horses at Petersburg. For the best he gave \$15 and the worst cost him \$25. On the 4th of September he left Blandford and rode to the falls of the James, and thence to the Nottoway River, at Swede's Bridge. "I arrived at Stewart's Ordinary to breakfast, which was toasted Indian hoeecake and very excellent cyder. Being always particularly careful of my horses, and they having fared very indifferently the night before, I ordered the hostler to give them plenty of meat." The hostler understood meat to mean meat, but bacon before the Petersburg horses. A crowd assembled, and this new balanced ration became a great joke. The horses having been fed corn, which, after all, is a form of bacon, the next day proceeded to Three Creeks, crossed them on three wooden bridges, and then crossed the Meherrin at Hicks's Bridge, "remarkably lofty and built of timber, as in all the southern part of America appears to be." Near Hicks's Bridge (and ford) lived Mr. Willis, breeder of the original stock of triumphant quarter races. "We took some refreshment at Edwards's ordinary, an exceedingly good building, with excellent accommodations, lately erected at this place. At the distance of ten miles we entered the province of North Carolina."

Smyth mentions that the James River lowgrounds produced twenty-five, thirty and sometimes thirty-five bushels from one of seed; the high land from eight to fifteen for one. "Much about the same quantity of Indian corn is produced from an acre, according to the quality and excellence of the soil, though it does not require more than a peck of seed to plant it. The produce of an acre in the culture of tobacco, in the best land, is about 1,600 pounds weight; on the worst about 500 pounds weight. An acre always contains nearly 1,250 hills of Indian corn, with two, three, and sometimes in strong land, four stalks in each hill, or about 5,000 plants of tobacco."

In the summer-time, says Captain Smyth, the average planter rises in the morning about 6 o'clock (the rich men, he says, rose at 9); he then drinks a julep, made of rum, water and sugar, but very strong; then he walks, or he generally rides, round his plantation, views all his stock and all his crop, breakfasts about 10 o'clock on cold turkey, cold meat, fried hominy, toast and cyder, ham, bread and butter, tea, coffee or chocolate, which last, however, is seldom tasted but by the women; the rest of the day he spends much in the same manner before described (i. e., in trying to keep cool); he eats no supper; they never even think of it. The women very seldom drink tea in the afternoon, the men never."

Bowling Green Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BOWLING GREEN, VA., November 7.—Mrs. Roger Drission, of Washington, spent several days with Mrs. Joel Haines this week.
Miss Graves, of Fredericksburg College, spent several days last week with Miss Annie M. White at the "Old Mansion."
Mrs. C. S. Webb and children left this week for a visit to her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Campbell.
Mrs. E. Knepp, of Warren, Pa., who has been spending his winters here for a number of years, has arrived here.
Mrs. Safford, of New York, and Mrs. Alice and Ellen Broadbent were in Richmond this week.
Miss Blaine Coghlin has returned home from a trip of several weeks to friends in Charlottesville.
Mrs. Clarence Campbell, of Richmond, is visiting her father, Mr. Otto P. Smoot.
Mrs. Annie Wright has returned from a visit to New York and Hampton, Va. She was accompanied by her son, Mr. Eddie Wright, of New York, who will spend some time here.
Miss Annie M. White left Friday for Richmond, where she will spend several days.

Special Hosiery Values

Guaranteed to Wear Three Months.
Women's and children's, in silk and cotton.
Children's, 35c; or three pairs for \$1.00.
Women's, 35c and 50c pair.

2 Special Umbrella Bargains

Ladies' 26-inch Umbrellas, handles of pearl, silver, and gun-metal, covering of guaranteed silk. Values, \$5.00 and \$6.00; special, \$3.98.
Ladies' 26-inch guaranteed Silk Umbrellas, six-inch steeling silver handle; special, \$6.98.

Third Floor Specials

72x72 French Sateen, down filled, \$7.00 kind for \$4.98.
12-4 California Blanket, all wool, soft and fleecy, bound with silk. Two colors, pink and blue. Worth \$7.00. Will keep you warm and cost \$4.98.
9x12 Wilton and Axminster Rugs, in the season to run as a special. \$27.50. Only one dozen to be sold at \$20.00.

85 Pairs Nottingham

Curtains, 3 Yards Long
Made for bedroom dining-room or living-room. They were \$1.25, and cheap at that, but for Monday, 85c.

\$7.50 and \$8.50 Skirts, \$4.98

100 skirts made of excellent quality chiffon Panama. We had these made up at a special figure early in the season to run as a special. Skirts that cannot be matched under \$7.50 and \$8.50, special at \$4.98.

\$35 Raincoats, \$24.75

Made in the fashionable swaggar back, English cut coat style, of the very finest Mole Silk, rubberized with high storm collar, suitable for either street wear or automobile. \$35 raincoats, special, \$24.75.

Children's Coats and Raincoats

We have thrown out on tables about 150 Children's Long Coats and Raincoats. The best materials and styles. Assorted sizes, four to sixteen years.
Long Coats that sold for \$12.50, now \$7.98.
Long Coats that sold for \$10.00, now \$5.98.
Raincoats that sold for \$10.00, now \$3.98.

Money-Saving Specials from the Domestic Department

72x90 Hemmed Cotton Sheets, of extra good quality cotton; special, 45c each.
63x90 Hemmed Cotton Sheets, special value, 55c.
72x90 Hemmed Cotton Sheets, special value, 50c.
48x90 Hemmed Cotton Sheets, special value, 70c.
New Outings, in new and stylish patterns and colorings, special values, 12 1/2c and 15c.
Embroidered Flannels, in new and tasty designs; special values, 60c to \$2.00 yard.

Table and Bed Linens at Good, Substantial Savings

75c Flemish Bleached, All Linen Damasks, 39c.
\$1.25 full two-yard wide, all pure linen, fine bleached Austrian Damasks, \$1.00 yard.
50c Hemstitched All Linen Damask Tray Cloths, 25c.
75c Fingert Damask Doilies, special 50c dozen.
\$2.50 Hemstitched All Linen Damask Napkins, \$1.75 dozen.
\$4.00 Hemstitched All Linen Huck Towels, extra large, fine and heavy, special, \$3.00 dozen.
\$5.00 Hemmed All Linen Huck Towels, extra large size; special, \$2.50 dozen.
\$3.50 Terry Bath Towels, extra special, \$3.00 dozen.
\$1.25 Hemstitched All Linen Pillow Cases, \$1.10 pair.
White Madras, in new and stylish patterns, 12 1/2c, 15c, 19c, 25c to 50c.

The Department With a Record—Silks and Dress Goods

Bigness, goodness, completeness and exclusiveness are features which stamp it RICHMOND'S BEST. This department gives the very best values in SILKS AND DRESS GOODS in this city. This is not simply a claim. IT'S A FACT. WHAT WE SELL SATISFIES; that's why we grow. We intend to make the coming week a record-breaker in silk and dress goods selling. We have the goods you want, and the prices are MONEY-SAVERS on everything we mention. COME EVERY DAY.

Correct Dress Satins

Quality and shades both right; 22 and 24 inches wide; new colors; laque, peacock, canard, catwalk, electric, new green, dark green, russet, brown, cream, tan, pale, wild duck, and black. For full dress \$1.25. Monday Quality 98c.

Plain Colored Taffetas, 59c

We sell only the very best all-silk grade, and on Monday morning we'll give you a "match" on our same quality. About 100 shades, including the new shades.
The 75c Taffetas.
The 50c Taffetas.
The 1.00 Taffetas.
At one price, 59c.

Business on the Big Third Floor is Always Good

Can't be anything but good with such items as these. ON MONDAY WE'LL SELL:
Just ten beautiful Tapestry Rugs, size 8x12, worth \$18.50, for \$15.
50 pairs Hand-Made Renssance and Cluny Curtains. The regular price \$5.50; for Monday and Tuesday, \$4.98.
Best rug bargains in Richmond. Can't be equalled; white and ecru.

75 All Down Comforts

Extra quality, French sateen covers, in the most pleasing color combinations.
Soft and warm, \$5.50 kind; full bed size, 72x72, \$4.98.
What this price saves you is a comfort too.

Newbern, N. C., Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NEW BERN, N. C., November 7.—Dr. H. G. Henson, son, Herbert, has returned from a visit to Boston, where they have been for some time.
Captain W. S. Simmons and wife and Miss Dora Roberts, who have been at Black Mountains during the summer, are at home for the winter.
Mrs. H. P. Morgan, of New York, is visiting her son, Mr. H. P. Morgan, on Metcalf Street.
Miss Sadie Wiswall, who was here during the meeting of the North Carolina Synod, the guest of Mrs. C. W. Munger, has returned to her home in Washington, N. C.
Miss Alice Greene, who has been visiting in Philadelphia for a few weeks, has returned home.
Mrs. L. C. Richardson, of Durham, has returned home after a short visit to Mrs. J. C. Tolson.
Mrs. J. H. Mock, of Thomasville, N. C., is the guest of Mrs. W. H. Hollister.
Mrs. Raymond Pollock, of Dover, has returned home after a visit to her father, Mr. C. E. Fox.
Miss Eva Rawlings, of Lawrenceville, Va., is the guest of Miss Nettie Rawlings on Craven Street.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fitch*

J. B. Mosby & Co.

Continuation of Our Stupendous November Clearing Sale.

Coats, Suits, Skirts and Ready-to-Wear Apparel

THIS SALE, WHICH IN RICHMOND IS CONFINED EXCLUSIVELY TO J. B. MOSBY & CO. CLOTHES OF UNUSUAL ELEGANCE AND STYLE—THE MAGNIFICENT PRODUCTION OF THE LARGEST NEW YORK TAILORS.

These distinguished garments possess every artistic fashion and virtue that can be put into good clothes. We own them for less money than suits and coats have been sold for this season, and have arranged for a sale that will eclipse all previous occasions. You will note we are not claiming to sell these garments at one-half price, or at one-third price off; the savings average hardly more than 25 per cent., but these are ACTUAL SAVINGS, and that is remarkable, considering their skillful tailoring, expert workmanship, accuracy of fit, correct fashion, originality and thorough goodness, which will forcibly impress you. PURCHASED BY J. B. MOSBY & CO. FOR THIS WEEK'S ENTHUSIASTIC SELLING.

\$30.00 Stylish Suits at \$19.75

At this popular price we show a great variety of beautiful suits; some tailored in our own selected styles. Among the popular styles are the 36 and 40-inch semi-fitted coats, with velvet collar and cuffs, and button-trimmed. Satin and taffeta silk lined. Skirts are cut in the new gored style, with folds of self material. \$30.00 suits special.

\$35.00 Stunning Suits at \$24.75

Handsome Suits, made of broadcloths, French serges, herringbone chevrons and fancy mixed materials, in the very latest long and medium coat models. Some elaborately trimmed in velvet, broad and buttons; others of the plainer tailored effects. Fitted or semi-fitted coats, silk lined. Skirts plain gored, with and without folds at bottom. Colors, green, catwalk, wisteria, navy, wine, smoke, and black. \$35.00 suits, special, \$24.75.

\$40.00 Suits at \$29.75

We are particularly anxious to acquaint you with the rich style of suits at this price. All new concepts that Dame Fashion has sanctioned as correct for this fall are in abundant variety here. We include styles from the strictly tailored 40-inch coat, fitted and semi-fitted, also various dressy models. The tailoring is perfect. Lined with taffeta silk and satin. Skirts in all the new styles in various models. Materials used are chiffon broadcloths, serges and fancy mixtures. Suits that have the characteristic of the Mosby finish. \$40.00 suits, special, \$29.75.

Swell New Low-Priced Neck Fixings

Coque Feather Boas, three yards long, all street and evening shades; special, \$3.50.
Marabou and Ostrich Stoles and Collarettes, in all street and evening shades, \$5.00 to \$15.00.
Pierot Collars, of ribbon, net, chiffon, etc., in all colors, 85c to \$2.00.
10c Children's Hemstitched All-Linen Handkerchiefs, special, 5c each.
25c Fancy Plaid Swiss Handkerchiefs, 12 1/2c each.

Underwear for Men, Women and Children

Only the good kinds, and at these little prices.
Infant's Wrappers, 25c, 35c, 50c to \$2.00.
Boys' Fleece Cotton Vests, Pants and Drawers, 25c, 50c.
Misses' Fleece Lined Cotton Vests and Pants, 25c, 50c.
Boys' Australian Wool Shirts, Pants and Drawers, in white and natural, 50c, 60c.
Ladies' extra quality Ribbed Merino Vests and Pants, regularly \$1.25, special, 90c.
Ladies' Combination Suits of cotton merino, wool, silk and wool, and all silk and in all shapes, \$1.00 to \$3.00.
Ladies' non-shrinkable Merino Wool Vests and Pants, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50.
Men's Australian and Scotch Wool Shirts and Drawers, in white and natural, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50.

Richmond's Best Glove, and It's Glove News That Spells Savings

Our \$1.00 French Kid Gloves, fitted and guaranteed at our glove counter, is unsurpassed by any \$1.25 Glove we have ever seen. All new and staple shades.
Women's Cape Goat Walking Gloves, in the new tan and brown shades; mannish cut, price seams and just full of wear; special, \$1.00 pair.
Perrin's P. X. M. Cape Gloves, in tan, brown, black, gray and white, \$1.50.
8-button Morocco Gloves, guaranteed to wear. Colors, tan, brown and black; shown only here, \$3.00.
Perrin's first quality, elbow-length French Kid Gloves, every pair guaranteed to wear; in colors, white, black, tan, brown, pink, light blue, lavender and champagne.
8-button length.....\$2.00 pair.
12-button length.....\$3.00 pair.
16-button length.....\$3.50 pair.

Special Sale Elbow Length Perrin's French Kid Gloves

12-button length; colors, navy, red and dark green. Every pair guaranteed to wear.
Red, in sizes 5 1/2, 6, 6 1/2, 6 3/4.
Navy, in sizes 5 1/2, 6, 6 1/2, 6 3/4.
Dark green, in sizes 5 1/2, 6, 6 1/2, 6 3/4.
Regularly \$5.00; special, \$3.50 pair.

In the Dress Goods Section

Every yard satisfies, and so does the price. STYLE-GIVING AND VALUE-GIVING has doubled our dress goods business this season. Good reason, isn't it? We think so. THAT'S WHY WE GROW.

For Instance:

\$1.00 Suitings,

Fifty pieces; all new styles; take your choice for 69c.

Another Instance:

\$1.50 and \$1.75 Suitings,

Seventy-five pieces, all new styles; take your choice for

Greatest Yet, \$1.19

That \$3 Broadcloth,

56 inches wide, all the new shades. We use it as a leader for \$2.50.

\$5.00 Black Caracul Coating for \$3.98.
\$6.00 Black Caracul Coating for \$4.98.

Yard-Wide Black Taffeta

The best is the only kind to buy.

\$1.25 kind for \$1.75 kind for 98c

\$1.50 kind for \$2.00 kind for \$1.35

\$1.50 kind for \$1.19

\$1.50

SEDO, the silk with a \$1.00 look, 49c.

The Best Corset for the Least Price

Nuform 463.

A "long line" model, for average tall figures. High bust, with very long "straight effect" hips and exceptional back length; the material is a durable coutil, in white only, and is trimmed with lace and ribbon. Hose supporters at front and sides. Sizes 18 to 30. Price, \$1.00.

Nuform 457.

A model for figures with undue flesh development in the back below the spine. It is quite high above the waist line (though not extreme), and has the new straight hips, longest at the extreme back. The material is a good quality of coutil, in white only. Trimmed with lace and ribbon. Hose supporters at front and hips. Sizes 18 to 30. Price, \$1.50.

Millinery

219 West Broad.

Beauty and Value

in winter millinery a wealth of fascinating idea expression in the surpassingly beautiful hats for women and misses that fill our large millinery store.

We invite you to look at the exquisite hats we offer at \$5.00, \$8.00, \$10, \$12. Wonders of millinery art and value.

Edward W. Ball,

Millinery,
219 West Broad Street.



Fredericksburg Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
FREDERICKSBURG, VA., November 7.—Mr. W. R. Richardson, of Richmond, was a visitor here this week.
Dr. and Mrs. F. T. Cassidy have returned from their wedding trip.
Miss Edna Fitzhugh is a guest of her sister, Mrs. John Daniel, in Washington.
Judge B. H. L. Chichester is a guest of Captain Arthur Chichester at Leesburg.
Mrs. J. B. Gray, of Stafford, is a guest of

STIEFF PIANO

\$135
The Crafts Piano Company
214-216 North Fifth Street

Boykens Social News.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
BOYKENS, VA., November 7.—Dr. Nash has been called to the Baptist Church here and will very soon move to this town.
Mrs. K. R. Sebrall is in Richmond, Va., attending the Woman's Missionary Union.
Mrs. B. B. Beaton is spending some time in Lawrenceville, Va.
Mrs. Hardy, of Arizona, has been on a visit to Mrs. A. C. Jordan.
Mrs. S. J. Myrick entertained "Halloween" evening the Methodist Church here.
Gertrude Sebrall, Mrs. George Knight and Miss Susie Knight have been visiting friends in Murfreesboro, N. C. this week.
Dr. Leigh, of Norfolk, Va., was here this week to see Dr. W. D. Drewry, who continues quite sick.
Mrs. J. P. Howe is in Richmond attending the General Missionary Society of the Baptist Church.